

Student Success Seminars

The SOAR Institute is excited to offer free seminars to help promote student success. Each session will include a short webinar with a “take-away” note page for students. A different topic is featured weekly with the same session offered each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday to accommodate student schedules. Text Anxiety, the first topic, attracted many students who indicated the strategies shared were very helpful. All seminars will be held in **Room 2414**. Topics and dates are outlined below.

NOTE TAKING & STUDY TIPS

Tues., 10/11, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Wed., 10/12, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Fri., 10/14, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

STRESS MANAGEMENT

Tues., 10/18, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Wed., 10/19, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Fri., 10/21, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

TIME MANAGEMENT

Tues., 10/25 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Wed., 10/26, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Fri., 10/28, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Seven Principles of Developmental Education

1. Accept students where they are and move them as far as they can go.
2. Assume that all students have the potential for growth.
3. Facilitate the transfer of knowledge to new learning situations.
4. Increase cognitive self-awareness.
5. Encourage students to gradually accept responsibility for their own learning.
6. Recognize that learning also includes affective development.
7. Envision every student as a potential graduate of your institution.

— National Center for Developmental Education

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SHELTON STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Basic Study Skills

BSS 090 — Getting Students Ready

Do you panic when it comes to taking a test? Are you unsure of how to take notes in a lecture class? Do you know your learning style and the appropriate strategies to use when studying? These are just a few of the questions that students enrolled in Basic Study Skills (BSS 090) are asked to answer. According to the National Center for Developmental Education, more than 60% of first-time college freshmen across our nation place into at least one developmental course. Because of this trend, BSS 090 is a course designed to help underprepared students gain the necessary skills to be successful in college.

BSS 090 is a computer-aided course that uses My Student Success Lab. The curriculum covers information literacy, learning preferences, time management, listening skills, note-taking techniques, test taking strategies, reading strategies, memory techniques, and problem solving strategies. While many students enrolled in developmental classes take BSS 090, the course is designed for any student who needs help or is weak in one of the topics covered. The course is designed to allow instructors to work closely with each student. Kathryn Gidley, a BSS instructor, said, “BSS 090 gives students the unique opportunity to work closely with an instructor on skills they need for success.”

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**Kathryn Gidley,
instructor**

“Don’t make excuses; make plans.” Dr. Hunter R. Boylan

Director, National Center for Developmental Education

Tutoring and Technology Support

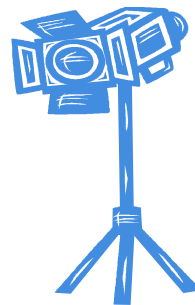
Students are finding assistance in the SOAR Institute. During the first month of the fall term, the SOAR Institute averaged more than 1000 students per week coming for help or to use resources. The tutoring program averaged more than 200 tutor sessions per week during the same time frame. The SOAR Institute is open from 7:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. on Monday through Thursday and from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. on Friday.

The mission of the SOAR Institute is to provide dedicated support to enhance the success of underprepared students. Our team members are anxious to assist students and enjoy working with students. Help with Bucs Mail, Smarthinking, Blackboard, My Lab, and Power Point printing are just some of the areas in which SOAR staff are ready to provide guidance.

The tutoring services in SOAR currently offer assistance in mathematics, English, biology, chemistry, history, nursing, psychology, speech, accounting, computer science, and economics. An English tutor is available on the Fredd campus two days a week in addition to the assistance already provided by Fredd staff. While tutors are available throughout the week, Friday is the best day for students who need assistance for longer periods of time. Check the Shelton State website for specific hours and days for each subject tutored. The click path to access the most current tutor schedule is www.sheltonstate.edu > Current Students > Tutoring.

SOAR is taking steps to achieve certification for the tutoring program through CRLA, the College Reading and Learning Association. This certification includes regular tutor training as well as other specific criteria. There are currently 28 tutors assisting students. Students are encouraged daily to evaluate each tutor session. These evaluations are reviewed regularly to find strengths and weaknesses in the tutoring program so that improvements may occur. Feedback from these services has been overwhelmingly positive thus far. SOAR is fortunate to have excellent tutors including many adjunct instructors.

Learning Assistance Services



Personnel Spotlight

A Conversation with Sophia Everett

Each edition of *SOARING* will feature one SOAR staff member. This edition spotlights one of our Navigators, Sophia Everett.

What prompted you to apply for a position at Shelton State?

There were several things that prompted me to apply for the position at Shelton State, but the most important reason was the mission of the SOAR Institute. It was the first time I had heard about a program that focuses on underprepared students. I was intrigued and excited about having an opportunity to help change the lives of a unique group of students. I can really relate to their stories because I was an underprepared student. When I was going to school, I wished a department like SOAR existed.

Where did you work before coming to Shelton State?

I worked at the University of Alabama for four years before coming to Shelton.

What was your position?

I was a Community Director for the Housing and Residential Communities and an Adjunct Faculty for New College.

What specifically did the job include?

As a residential director, I promoted an educational learning environment through active leadership and proper stewardship of the facilities. I supervised staff and operations of the residential community. I also assisted with the residents' adjustment to college and on-campus living. I promoted civic responsibility by role modeling healthy life choices and encouraging community involvement. I worked closely with faculty on programming for living learning communities, consisting of engineering women and Honors College students. As an adjunct faculty member, I taught a course entitled "Academic Potential", designed for Crimson Edge Students. In the course, I provided opportunities for students to learn and adopt methods that facilitate academic and social success such as time management, self-assessment, enhancing reading/writing skills, note taking and test taking skills, communication skills, personal health, and money management. I also educated students about university student services, community resources, policies and procedures.

Where did you attend college?

I attended the University of Southern Mississippi. "GO EAGLES!"

What degrees have you earned? I received my B.S. in Psychology with Honors

and a Masters of Education in the College of Student Personnel.

Tell us where you grew up and what led you to pursue this profession.

I grew up in Indianola, Mississippi (the home of B.B. King). I actually started in the Nursing Program at USM because I was a part of my high school's Allied Health Vocational Program. After having been in the program for a year, I realized the nursing profession did not make me happy. So I thought back to when I was the happiest in my college career and that was when I was an orientation leader and SGA Senator. That experience led me to my career path of Student Affairs.

Tell us about your family.

My husband, Marty Everett, is a high school assistant principal. We have a one year old son, McKinley.

What are some of your interests and hobbies? I absolutely love sports. I played basketball and softball, and ran track. I really love to sing and I am a member of my church choir. I also enjoy traveling, exercising, and spending time with family and friends.

What is your goal as a Navigator in the SOAR Institute?

My goal as a Navigator is to hear each student's story, know where they have come from, and then be a part of their successes, both academically and personal. I want to be sure I am giving my students the best academic advice. They depend on me for that. I plan to give 100% in all my efforts.

Is there any additional information you would like to share?

My motto is "If BETTER is possible, then Good is not enough." This encourages me to strive to do my best. I am a Graduate member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. where I serve as the Corresponding Secretary and Technology Chair. I am also on the Graduate Advisor Council for the undergraduate chapters of UA and Stillman. I have been a member of NASPA, the National Association for Student Personnel Administrators, for five years. In the future, I plan to pursue a doctorate in Higher Education Administration.



Sophia Everett

SOAR PERSONNEL

Annette Cook

Veronica Cross

Sophia Everett

Kathryn Gidley

LaTonya Robinson

Jan Rogers

Lisa Skelton

Shelton State Community College, SOAR Institute, Box 176
9500 Old Greensboro Road, Tuscaloosa, AL 35405
205.391.3982 telephone ~ 205.391.5818 fax
Annette Cook, acook@sheltonstate.edu